REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, requiring the Applicants to elect one of the following inventions:

> **Group I** – Claims 1-8, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23 – Directed to an image encoding methods and devices which classifies each frame into a plurality of categories, predicts the next frame based on a plurality of similarly classified frames, computes a difference between the current frame and the predicted frame, and encodes and stores the current frame into a category;

> **Group II** – Claims 9-15, 18, 21 and 24 – Directed to image decoding methods and devices which decodes the category number of the current frame, decodes a corresponding reference image, produces a predicted frame, decodes the current frame, and stores the current frame into referenced memory;

> **Group III** – Claims 25 and 27 – Directed to an image encoding method and device which produces high band image data and low band image data by setting a reference image specifying data for a plurality of frames of a category, producing a predicted image by selecting an image data from image data of a plurality of frames of the category, producing and encoding high band image data from image data of the current frame and predicted image, encoding reference image specifying data, encoding a category number of the current frame, and producing low band image data from the high band image data and predicted image; and

> **Group IV** – Claims 26 and 28 – Directed to an image decoding method and device which decodes image data from high band image data and low band image data by decoding a category number of a current frame, setting a reference image specifying data for image data of a stored frame belong to the category of the current frame, decoding the reference image specifying data, producing a low band image data specified by the reference image specifying data, decoding the high band image data, producing the decoded image from the high band image data and the predicted image, and storing the decoded image of the current frame into the appropriate category.

In response to the election requirement, Applicants elect Group II, which includes claims 9-15, 18, 21 and 24, without traverse. Claims 30 and 32 depend from claims 9 and 21 and should also be examined since they are directed towards the invention of Group II.

Based on the Patent Application Fee Determination Record available from PAIR, it appears that the USPTO determined that the application included 32 total claims, 12 independent claims, and no multiple dependent claims. However, original claims 7, 8, 14, 15, and 29-32 were multiple dependent claims. The foregoing amendment amends the claims as originally filed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 11-0855. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.815.6500.

Respectfully submitted,

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